PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, on March 26 and 27 I was in my district visiting an area severely damaged by tornadoes that struck over the weekend. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 187, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 188, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 189, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 190, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 191, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 192, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 193, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 194, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 195, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 196, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 197, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 198, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 199, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 200, and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 201.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Democratic House budget resolution H. Con. Res. 99) that adopts and implements funding priorities that reflect the core values of our Nation and provides a responsible fiscal blueprint to lead our nation out of deficit spending. Medicare, Medicaid and education funding like Pell Grants.

H. Con. Res. 99 puts the Federal Government's fiscal house in order by committing to a PAYGO budget rule. Enforcing PAYGO means that all new federal spending must be offset so that we are not adding to the red ink that endangers our nation's fiscal security.

The budget resolution does not increase taxes. In fact, it extends beyond 2010 of important tax cuts for the middle class—including the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, estate tax reform, and the deduction for state and local sales taxes—an important credit for California taxpayers. It also extends the Research and Development tax credit to spur innovation.

H. Con. Res. 99 allocates over $85 billion for veterans programs and exceeds the President's request by $3.5 billion. This long overdue increase for our veterans will help provide the immediate care our new veterans require and address the long-term care issues facing many of our older wounded warriors. In addition to covering the basic issues of care and rehabilitation, the FY2008 Budget Resolution includes additional funds for post-traumatic stress disorder research, identification, and treatment, and funds for the elimination of the nearly 400,000 cases currently residing in the claims backlog. As Vice-Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies, I am pleased we are able to be generous to our nation's veterans who have earned these benefits.

The Democratic budget rejects the President's cuts in environmental programs and instead supports valuable research and natural resource conservation programs, such as NOAA's Education Program and the Ocean and Coastal Management program.

Despite the President's past assertions of making education one of his legacy programs, his FY2008 budget request to cut much needed funding for core education programs including No Child Left Behind. The Democratic House budget continues a long tradition of putting children first by adding over $3 billion to core programs under No Child Left Behind as well as special education (IDEA), Head Start, child care and funding to help students afford the ever-increasing cost of college.

Affordable housing on the Central Coast is one of the most pressing issues for families in our community. I am very pleased that the Democratic budget helps address this crisis by including a reserve fund to finance efforts to reverse the decline in affordable housing without increasing the deficit. I am proud to vote in support of H. Con. Res 99 and strongly urge my colleagues to support this budget that prioritizes America's important needs.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FERRARO

HON. JON. C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Robert "Bob" Ferraro

for his many years of service to both the state of Nevada and to the residents of Boulder City, Nevada, where he has served with great distinction and honor.

Bob is a native Nevadan. He attended the University of Nevada, Reno and earned both a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree. After completing his education, Bob worked at his alma mater for 10 years before moving to Las Vegas to begin working in an engineering firm.

Bob moved to Boulder City in 1970. He began his career in public service in 1976, when he was appointed to a vacancy on the Boulder City Council. This appointment was the beginning of over 30 years of distinguished service to the citizens of Boulder City. Since 1976, Bob has served continuously, either as a council member or as mayor. Bob's service on the Boulder City Council has led to involvement in a number of other organizations. He has served on the Executive Board of the Civilian Military Council, the Nevada Development Authority and the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition/Clark County Debt Management.

Bob has served in his current position as Mayor of Boulder City since 1999. In June of 2003, he was elected to a second 4-year term. During his tenure as Mayor, Bob has committed himself to leading with integrity, vision, and dedication. His leadership philosophy is based upon the notion that the citizens of Boulder City should have access to their elected officials and city government. Additionally, during his tenure as Mayor of Boulder City, Bob has overseen a variety of civic and public works projects that have enhanced the overall quality of life in Boulder City.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Robert "Bob" Ferraro. Over the past 30 years, he has demonstrated exceptional commitment to improving life for the residents of Boulder City. I commend him for his leadership, his dedication and his distinguished record of service to the Boulder City community. I applaud his service as Mayor of Boulder City and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.